

# Disaster Preparedness Checklist for Pets

- ▶ Crate/Carrier and bedding
- ▶ Food, water, food dishes, and manual can opener
- ▶ Collar/Harness with identification tags and leash
- ▶ Current pet photos
- ▶ Pet comfort items: towels, blankets, toys, treats, etc.
- ▶ Plastic bags, paper towels, cat litter, and newspaper (shredded, it can be used as litter)
- ▶ First Aid Kit ([link](#))
- ▶ Daily pet medications or copies of prescriptions with current expiration date(s)
- ▶ Detailed instructions for animal care rescue workers
- ▶ Copies of animal health certificates
- ▶ Out-of-state telephone contacts
- ▶ Flashlights and extra batteries
- ▶ List of hotels, motels, and/or boarding kennels that accept pets



# If Ordered to Evacuate, Take your Pets with You

- ▶ Do not leave your pets behind, arrange a safe haven for them in the event of an evacuation. Remember if it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. Animals left behind in a disaster can easily be injured, lost, or killed. Animals turned loose to fend for themselves are likely to become victims of exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food or water, or accidents.

\*Note that American Red Cross disaster shelters will not accept pets because of health and safety regulations. It is imperative that you have determined where you will bring your pets ahead of time.



# If you Don't Evacuate, Shelter In-place

- ▶ Bring your pets indoors as soon as local authorities say there is an imminent disaster.
- ▶ During a pending disaster, keep pets under your direct control since you will not have time to try to find them.
- ▶ Keep dogs leashed and cats in carriers, and make sure they are wearing identification. Pet owners should put a piece of duct tape onto their pet's collar with the name and phone number of an out-of-state dependable friend or relative since disasters can wipe out landlines and cell phone service for several days.



# After the Storm

- ▶ Don't allow your pets to roam. Familiar landmarks and smells might be gone and your pet will probably be disoriented. Pets can easily get lost in these situations and should be kept indoors while you assess the damage.
- ▶ Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Try to get them back into their normal routines as soon as possible.
- ▶ Be ready for behavioral changes or problems that may result from the stress of the situation.

